



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

February 22, 2007

**INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN300-7-17**

**SUBJECT:** LTP- Announcement of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of funding of Fiscal Year 2007  
Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Wildlife Habitat Incentives  
Program (WHIP), and EQIP Ground and Surface Water Program (GSWC).

Purpose: To establish the timelines for the 3<sup>rd</sup> round funding process and actions necessary to  
implement the FY07 cost share programs administered through ProTracts in Indiana.

Expiration Date: September 30, 2007

Background: EQIP was released with Indiana Bulletin IN300-7-6, WHIP with Indiana Bulletin  
300-7-16, and GSWC Indiana Bulletin 300-7-15, in these Bulletins, and in the Indiana Program  
Guidelines it was stated that Additional Rounds will be announced if funds become available for  
applications signed after the deadlines set for the 2<sup>nd</sup> round. After looking at the number of  
applications in ProTracts and the amount of funds being requested through the first rounds of  
these programs, it was decided to announce the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of funding at this time.

Along with this announcement please review the attachment which extends the National deadline  
for having funds committed from March 15, 2007 to April 30, 2007. This allows us to announce  
this 3<sup>rd</sup> round of funding for these programs in Indiana. The June 1, 2007 deadline for obligating  
all program funds is still in effect, so it is paramount that we adhere to the schedule as detailed in  
the table below.

The Indiana State Guidelines have been posted and all of those guidelines remain in effect at this  
time. The schedule of implementation for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Round of funding will be as follows:

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
April 16	1. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round cutoff date for any new application signed between 02-20 and 04-16. These will be considered in 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round funding along with remaining unfunded applications from previous rounds.	Field Offices
April 30	1. All QA review completed on all applications that were signed by April 16 <sup>th</sup> and that are planned and ranked. Status is "Preapproved".	Area Program Specialist
May 7	1. 3 <sup>rd</sup> Round applications will be selected for funding based on ranking score until funds are depleted. Status in ProTracts will be changed to "Approved".  2. Field will check for "Approved applications in ProTracts and will begin taking action to obligate. Print the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 for producer's signature and send Approval Letter to the producer.	Programs Staff  Field Office

DIST: 0

WHEN	WHAT	WHO
May 25	1.Producer has signed the "Approved" NRCS-CPA-1202 (WITH PROGRAMS STAFF eSIGNATURE) and the <b>NRCS-CPA-1202 Appendix</b> , then the field advises the AC that the contract is ready to obligate.  2.Area Conservationist or Designee signs the contract in ProTracts and creates the obligation. This finalizes the contract.	Field Office   Area Conservationist or Designee
Continuous	4 <sup>th</sup> Round funding will be open to any applicant signing an application for assistance after April 17, 2007. 4 <sup>th</sup> Round will only be used for any funds left from Indiana's initial allocation <b>OR</b> for any additional funds which we may receive.	All levels

Remember that the 2007 Indiana Guidelines for EQIP can be found on the Indiana E-Directives web page at [http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual\\_supplements.html](http://www.in.nrcs.usda.gov/intranet/manual_supplements.html) Title 440. The other program guidelines are posted with the Indiana Bulletins on the eDirectives site.

All applications must be run through the Application Evaluation and Ranking Tool (AERT) in ProTracts. AERT includes National, State and local priorities and these will remain the same. WHIP and GSWC applications will only have National and State priorities.

All of the "*Special instructions and provisions for processing FY07 EQIP applications*" provided for in Indiana Bulletin IN300-7-6 are as still valid and applicable.

Funds are available now, and the field should make all efforts to assure that all producers interested in participating in these programs in Indiana are signed up, conservation plans completed, and that we are ready to fund these applications with any available funds before the national deadline of June 1, 2007, as well as being able to take care of any additional funds made available after that date.

Producers have a golden opportunity to participate in the 2007 NRCS cost-share programs in Indiana. Please be proactive in getting the word out to those who may be interested in participating.

If you have questions on Programs implementation or quality assurance, contact your Area Program Specialist or the State Programs staff at 317-290-3200, Harold Thompson at Ext. 320, Jim Dunaway at Ext. 334, John Poenisch at Ext. 357, or Joe Williams at Ext 311.

/s/

J. XAVIER MONTTOYA  
Acting State Conservationist

Attachment